

Hoss to seek Euro-Arab support

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss said Wednesday he would seek European and Arab support for his cabinet's drive to end Christian General Michel Aoun. Hoss made the statement shortly before heading for Paris to attend a Euro-Arab conference which he said was expected to discuss the Lebanese problem. The conference, due to begin Thursday, was called by French President François Mitterrand and is expected to be attended by 12 European and 22 Arab foreign ministers. "I will ask for more international support to enable Lebanon to surpass the current state of partition which threatens its unity," Hoss said. Aoun, who is holding out in the country's Christian enclave, has refused to recognise President Elias Hrawi, elected last month, or the authority of his cabinet, headed by Hoss.

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Arafat: Jordan-PLO coordination, links at their highest level

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Jordanian and Palestinian leaders held in-depth talks Wednesday on further coordination of policy and approach towards efforts for peace in the Middle East and American proposals for Israeli-Palestinian talks.

The level of understanding and coordination reached between the two sides was evident in remarks made by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in an interview with Jordan Television.

"Jordanian-Palestinian talks are not a matter of coordination but a collective Arab action on all levels," said Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and president of the State of Palestine. "I would like to express my profound gratitude for His Majesty King Hussein's brotherly, principled and committed position towards his kinfolk living in the occupied territories," he told Jordan Television.

"Jordanian-Palestinian talks are not a matter of coordination but a collective Arab action on all levels," said Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and president of the State of Palestine. "I would like to express my profound gratitude for His Majesty King Hussein's brotherly, principled and committed position towards his kinfolk living in the occupied territories," he told Jordan Television.

The PLO leader said his talks with the King and Prime Minister Mudar Badran, whom he held a round of talks Wednesday, dealt with means to bolster the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

Arafat, who arrived here Tues-

day and expected to leave later Wednesday, rejected Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's contention that Jordan was Palestine and recalled Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's remark that, along Shamir's contention, it will appear that Poland was the Israeli premier's homeland.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported that Wednesday's discussions between Badran and Arafat — attended by senior officials from both sides — covered the current situation in the Middle East, the latest developments in the region as well as the international scene, and efforts to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict.

According to officials quoted by international agencies, the talks also dealt with American proposals for Israeli-Palestinian talks, the role of the PLO in any settlement and the future of Jordanian-Palestinian talks.

"Many crucial events are taking place regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict which need evaluation and coordinated stand,"

said a senior Jordanian official quoted by Reuters.

Later, in comments made to reporters after the meeting with Badran, Arafat assailed Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin's threat that the property of parents of children demon-

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Badran set to secure House confidence vote

By Nermene Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government's policy statement to Parliament on Tuesday has drawn mixed reactions from deputies and the public, swaying towards positive feelings but intermingled with some doubts and caution. However, it appears a foregone conclusion that the government will secure a vote of confidence on Dec. 30. It will only surprise the public if Prime Minister Mudar Badran does not manage to acquire the approval for his cabinet.

In his programme of action, the premier was able to touch on all major demands made by candidates who sought Lower House seats in the Nov. 8 elections and to satisfy the general tendencies among the public.

Even Dr. Ahmad Oweid Al Abbadi, a constant critic of the government, agreed that there were many elements in the policy statement "which fit in with the public demands."

But he added his doubts about the sincerity of these pledges. "What if they said them only to get the vote of confidence?" he asked.

Deputy Taher Al Masri answered this question by pointing out that the government has already taken practical steps in the direction of democratisation before the reading of the policy statement. "These pledges are excusable," he said. "Parliament has a duty in this field and we will fulfil our duty."

Their Anis, a Zarqa Muslim Brotherhood deputy, also pointed to the positive elements in the statement but said that the Brotherhood deputies "have not formed an opinion yet... the situation needs a careful study."

According to observers and some deputies who asked to remain anonymous, there are many points of agreement between the cabinet and the legislative authority which were highlighted in Badran's policy statement.

Most important of these points were the decisions to freeze the martial law, crack down on financial and management corruption and to investigate the reasons behind the Kingdom's large debt and prosecute those responsible.

Masri, a former minister, said that reconsidering the mistakes of the past was the "best thing that could happen in Jordan, especially at this time."

He paid particular attention to what he described as "changes in the local and international situation which reflect itself on Parliament, the press and the public at large."

Masri maintained that these changes "are now understood by the government and the extent of cooperation is evident, especially that the prime minister began taking positive steps before the reading of the policy statement."

He pointed out that some past governments, "for purposes of protecting their institutions, used to be domineering in its views and forced it upon the people to ensure the expansion of its authority..." it has ended."

Another major point of agreement between Badran's programme and the demands of the Lower House is the government's pledge to reduce the agony and suffering of Palestinians without touching the core

strating in the uprising would be confiscated if they failed to pay Israeli-imposed fines.

"This is a funny and strange law," said Arafat. "I make a present of it to U.S. President George Bush, who talks about human rights everywhere except the Palestinian people's human rights. Now we have reached a stage where Palestinian children's rights are violated."

The PLO leader also criticised Shamir for what he described as Israeli attempts to exclude Jordan and the PLO from the peace process. "If Shamir thinks he is a political acrobat who can cover the flight of the sun with his hands he is dreaming," Arafat said. "We are the difficult number in the equation in the Middle East. And those who don't like this, can head out to the Dead Sea or the Mediterranean Sea or the Red Sea and drink until they are full."

The recent superpower summit held in Malta did not give enough attention to the Middle East conflict, Arafat conceded. But he pointed out the issue was the only subject discussed between Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev other than bilateral agreements at the summit.

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(Continued on page 3)



Israeli soldiers carry the body of a Palestinian found dead in the Arab Jerusalem neighbourhood of Jabal Mukaber.

U.S. troops, PDF locked in battle

Noriega ousted but in hiding

PANAMA CITY (Agencies) —

Thousands of U.S. troops supported by helicopters and armoured vehicles attacked Panamanian military bases throughout the country Wednesday in a bid to apprehend General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Noriega, the Panama Defence Forces (PDF) chief who has been indicted in the United States on drug charges, was in hiding.

Machine-gun and cannon fire echoed across the capital through the night. One hospital reported 50 dead and hundreds wounded, but a doctor there said the toll was rising rapidly and medical supplies were short.

The Panama Canal was closed by the fighting, and a security guard said oil pipelines through the canal zone were not operating because employees failed to arrive for work. U.S. officials said they expected the pipelines to reopen Thursday.

Opposition leader Guillermo Endara, the perceived winner of elections last May later nullified by the Noriega-controlled government, was sworn in as president and said U.S. forces were in control of most Panamanian military bases. It was unclear if Endara had the support of any military units.

U.S. President George Bush said on national television that

some U.S. and Panamanian civilians died in the fighting, which began about midnight (0500 GMT).

"The operation is not over yet," Bush said. "General Noriega is in hiding."

Bush said he was forced to intervene militarily because Noriega's "reckless actions" had endangered the lives of some 35,000 U.S. citizens in Panama.

"I took this action only after reaching the conclusion that every other avenue was closed and that the lives of American citizens were in grave danger," he said.

Although initial Defence Department counts recorded at least nine American soldiers killed in the fighting and 39 wounded, Bush said he was pleased that most of U.S. objectives had been achieved and organised resistance had virtually ceased.

At a news conference, Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the United States had made a fugitive of Noriega. He vowed to catch the Panamanian, who had thumbed his nose at several U.S. attempts to remove him from power.

"(Noriega) is not running anything. We own all the bases. We have cut off the head of that government," Powell declared.

"We will chase him and we will find him."

He said 7,000 crack combat troops were airlifted to Panama for the assault. About 13,000 soldiers were already based in Panama to protect the U.S.-built

base.

Bush also announced the removal of economic sanctions imposed in an effort to topple Noriega, whose removal has been sought since his indictment on drug charges in Florida in February 1988.

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(Continued on page 3)

Upto 2,000 reported killed in demonstration

Romanian forces on full alert as protests continue

BELGRADE (Agencies) —

Romanian forces went on full alert Wednesday and anti-government protests, in which up to 2,000 people may have been killed at the weekend, continued in several towns, the Yugoslav news agency Tanjug said.

"It is only seemingly quiet in Bucharest, where young men with full knapsacks, most likely recruits, are to be seen at railway stations," said Tanjug.

Tanjug said the Romanian press had kept silent on Sunday's protests against the hardline President Nicolae Ceausescu in the towns of Timisoara and Arad, but that the public has been informed by watching foreign television programmes.

"The state of full alert has been declared across Romania as protests and unrest continue," it said.

Signalling Kremlin displeasure at the behaviour of Romania's hardline leadership, Soviet news agencies Wednesday reported the demonstrations and continuing tension.

The Soviet media gave details of the bloody suppression of protests in Timisoara amid signs Moscow may break its long silence on Ceausescu's resistance to reforms sweeping Eastern

Europe.

The government newspaper Izvestia also appeared to mock the official Romanian media for ignoring the clashes and concentrating instead on Ceausescu's visit to Iran and the "Labour success" of the Romanian working people.

Mihai Munteanu, a deputy from Soviet Moldavia which borders Romania, told reporters he had been told Wednesday that protests were continuing in several cities and criticised the government for violating human rights.

"I spoke to people across Romania by telephone this morning. Demonstrations are continuing across the country, including the cities of Iasi and Arad," said Munteanu, an opera singer who frequently performs in Romania.

There was still no official

Kremlin reaction to events in Romania, apart from remarks by Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Brussels Tuesday.

He expressed concern over re-

ports of "unpleasant things" that had happened in Romania.

Ceausescu returned to the

country Wednesday after a three-

day visit to Iran, the official

Bucharest airport by government officials and politburo members and his wife Elena.

Hungarian Foreign Minister Gyula Horn said several hundred people had been killed and wounded in Timisoara when police and troops attacked demonstrators.

Horn told parliament that according to "credible information," security forces and soldiers had turned guns and tanks on a crowd of several thousand people.

"They acted very brutally against the demonstrators, shot into the crowd. There were several hundred dead and wounded, according to credible information," Horn said.

"These acts are not only contrary to all international norms, they are inhuman," the minister said.

Pope John Paul condemned the killing of demonstrators in Romania, saying he had heard the news with deep sorrow.

In an unusually strong statement at the end of his Wednesday audience in the Vatican, the pontiff said: "We have all learnt of the news of deaths and injuries in several Romanian cities with deep sorrow.

Ceausescu was met at

Bucharest airport by government officials and politburo members and his wife Elena.

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London announces Hong Kong rights

LONDON (R) — Britain said Wednesday it will grant full citizenship to 50,000 key Hong Kong residents and their families, giving a total of about 225,000 Hong Kong citizens the right to settle in the country. Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd told parliament full British passports, immediate valid, would be issued to 50,000 "heads of household" in the run-up to the colony's handover to Chinese sovereignty in 1997. The long-awaited nationality package was promised to the colony by Britain after the Chinese army quelled pro-democracy student demonstrations in Peking last June, torpedoing confidence among Hong Kong citizens about their future under China's rule. About 3.25 million of Hong Kong's 5.7 million people hold British passports, but the documents give them no right to live in Britain and China's repression of the demonstrations started an emigration flood. The opposition Labour Party attacked the proposals as "elitist and discriminatory" and said they would not be honoured by any future Labour government. A former chairman of the ruling Conservative Party, Norman Tebbit, also signalled right-wing dissent among government supporters for different reasons.

Israel is expected to add roadblocks and troops to the town's main streets and Manger Square over the holiday as it has done in previous years. Archbishop Desmond Tutu, South Africa's Anglican church leader and Nobel Peace Prize laureate, will conduct Christmas mass at Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity.

Sabbath's call

In a news release, the spiritual leader of Catholics in Israel, the occupied territories and Jordan called for Palestinian self-rule and peace talks with Israel as the only way to bring security to both sides.

Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah asked Israelis and Arabs "to prepare themselves for reconciliation and love towards one another" on Christmas.

"Granting the Palestinian people sovereignty is the only way to achieve just and lasting peace in this bereaved region," Sabbah said. "It is up to the people to decide what kind of sovereignty they want, an independent state, a federation or confederation."

"The sovereignty of the Palestinian people does not contradict that of the Jewish people and does not jeopardise their security," said Sabbah, appointed in 1987 and the first Arab to hold the post.

"It is not only the Palestinians who are suffering now, but the Israelis also. It must come to an end for the benefit of both parties," he said.

In a bid to curb Gaza protests, the army said: Wednesday it would let officers confiscate the property of parents whose children took part in demonstrations. Youngsters have been at the front line of stone-throwing protests.</

Arabs and Europeans see Paris talks as symbol of enduring ties

TUNIS (R) — Beyond trade and technology, Palestine and petrochemicals, Arab and European foreign ministers want the Euro-Arab dialogue which opens in Paris Thursday to be the visible symbol of an enduring relationship.

President Francois Mitterrand of France has invited the 34 ministers — 12 from the European Community and 22 from the Arab League states — to Paris to revive a process which had lost its way in bureaucratic details and political misunderstandings.

When the partners in the dialogue last met in 1983, they failed to produce a joint declaration because of a perennial imbalance between political demands by the Arabs and the less coherent position of the Europeans, diplomats said.

"The French are picking up the whole process and relaunching it through this grand meeting... It's an important symbolic chance to affirm the strength of the relationship," said a European Ambassador in Tunis, the Arab League headquarters.

"Everyone will say what's on his mind. We don't expect any concrete results. But the meeting will make it possible to give a psychological boost to a dialogue which had sunk into routine and

was dozing off dangerously," Hamadi Essid, the Arab League representative in Paris, told Reuters.

"It's the spirit that counts most... but it will definitely be a first step towards more fruitful cooperation in the future," said an Arab ambassador.

The Arab League has been pressing the Europeans for a new session of the dialogue since at least 1986 but attempts to draft a joint statement in advance continued to pose problems.

League Secretary General Chadi Klibi, a keen advocate of the dialogue, brought it up again when he saw Mitterrand in October and a few days later the French president took off EC members by surprise by announcing the meeting for December.

Diplomats said Mitterrand, partly for reasons of national prestige, wanted to ensure the dialogue resumed before France hands over the EC presidency to Ireland on Jan. 1.

Only Libya and Syria objected

to the idea because of the diplomatic sanctions which the EC imposed on them in 1986 for their alleged role in acts of violence.

Libya at first said it would boycott any Arab state that took part in the meeting. It began to back down after Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak had a word with Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi and Monday it said it would take part.

The French Foreign Ministry said Tuesday the Syrian and Libyan Foreign ministers, Farouq Al Shara and Jaddallah Azzouz Al-Talbi, were expected in Paris. Shara was in Tripoli Tuesday, apparently for last-minute consultations.

Libya and Syria are bound to bring the sanctions up in Paris but will probably fail to make it a central issue. "There's no disposition to make this a Libyan meeting, except on the part of the Libyans," the European ambassador said.

Arab League officials said France's presidency and developments in the Middle East peace process over the past year had helped break the deadlock in the dialogue.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), a full Arab League member, is a welcome participant after renouncing terrorism and recognising Israel's right to exist last year. It is sending Foreign Minister Farouk Kaddoumi to the meeting.

Egypt, the most populous Arab state, resumed its place in the Arab League in May after 10 years in the wilderness.

Hamadi Essid said the two sides were practically in agreement on how the dialogue should now proceed but European diplomats said this was far from the case.

The Arab League wants the 34 foreign ministers to meet regularly, at least every other year, and expand the troika of foreign ministers to a group with seven or eight ministers from each side, officials said.

The three-man troika groups the foreign ministers of the former, the current and future presidents of the community.

"In general, the Europeans are not interested in creating a gigantic machinery which turns out paper and does not function," one European diplomat said.

"We regard constitutions, minutes and draft communiques as a positive nuisance. We don't want to repeat the mistakes of the past 12 years," said another.

Israel worried by Iraqi missile development

TEL AVIV (R) — Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin voiced alarm Wednesday at Iraq's development of a long-range missile capability and said Israel would have to take "the appropriate decision."

Answering parliamentary questions, Rabin gave the first public Israeli response to Baghdad's announcement on Dec. 7 of the successful launch of a three-stage space rocket.

"The defence establishment is keeping a close watch on... developments in Iraq in various technological areas, especially Iraq's progress in developing medium- and long-range ground-to-ground missiles, its entry into space and the development of non-conventional weapons," he said.

"Our monitoring is aimed at enabling the government to take the appropriate decision in the light of these developments in every sphere of confrontation...," Rabin said.

Western military analysts quoted by a British newspaper said the Iraqi missile did not achieve all its goals.

The analysts quoted by the Guardian Monday said the missile, named Al Aabid (the worse), flew for only 130 seconds and reached an altitude of just 20 kilometres.

Israel bombed a nuclear reactor under construction in Baghdad in 1981 because it believed the plant would be used to manufacture nuclear weapons.

Rabin said Iraq had made several major strides in military technology during the 1981-83 Gulf war against Iran.

The government of Iraq has adopted an order of national priorities which channels enormous resources into research, development and production of the most advanced weapons, which are likely to equip Iraq with a long-range capability," he said.

Foreign experts say Israel has itself developed medium-range missiles which could hit Iraq and possesses a nuclear and chemical weapons capability.

The death sentences for these two men "were vastly out of proportion" to their crimes, especially because they were tried by a special court without full judicial protection, said a department official who could not be named in keeping with department regulations.

"We urge the government of Sudan not to impose the death sentences on the two prisoners remaining," the official said.

"We have discussed these cases with the government of Sudan in private diplomatic channels and we continue to do so," the official said.

Sudan has been under military rule since a June 30 coup which overthrew the government. U.S. law mandates cutting off aid to countries whose democratic governments have been overthrown, but the administration has withheld such action in hopes the new rulers would act to resolve the country's civil war.

However, a report issued last week by Amnesty International said murder and torture continue in Sudan since the military takeover. Also, talks earlier this month between the Khartoum government and the rebels fighting for autonomy in the south of Sudan broke down.

Attorney Zahir Aziz, who represents the four, said Monday: "The police have told me very little. But the men are under the impression they have been arrested because they are suspected of being a hit squad to kill Salman Rushdie."

The late Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini issued a religious decree on Feb. 14 ordering Muslims to hunt down and kill

the Indian-born British novelist "for blaspheming Islam" in his novel *The Satanic Verses*. Rushdie has been hiding under police protection ever since.

Mousavi, who suffers from multiple sclerosis, said after his release Tuesday night that during his five days of questioning police accused him of masterminding a plot to kill Rushdie.

"I don't know how to make bombs," said the 40-year-old Iranian as he lay on the living room floor of his Manchester home, his wheelchair nearby. "They accused me of plotting to kill Salman Rushdie, but I told them I was innocent."

Fighting back tears and trembling with emotion, he said, "I am against terrorism. I am in favour of Salman Rushdie being punished, but not by me. He should be punished by Islamic Law and courts."

Mousavi said police questioned him for three hours every day. "A police lady was very nice. But then a superintendent was very bad. He told me: 'you are a terrorist.' I said how could I be a terrorist? I am a disabled man. They said I could be a master-

ICRC fails in Gulf PoW swap bid

BAGHDAD (AP) — A senior Red Cross official flew to Geneva Wednesday after failing to arrange an immediate swap of ailing and wounded prisoners still held by Iran and Iraq more than a year after the Gulf war cease-fire.

Angelo Gnadinger, the Middle East chief of the Geneva-based International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) ended his visit after five days of talks in the Iraqi capital.

He had held similar meetings in Tehran with Iranian officials last week, seeking the repatriation of some 1,000 wounded and ailing prisoners held by both sides.

Gnadinger refused to comment to reporters before his departure on the outcome of his visit.

But Andreas Wigger, the ICRC's chief delegate in Baghdad, said: "I may say nothing concrete has been achieved...,"

Oil tanker blocking Suez Canal refloated

SUEZ (R) — An oil tanker which had been blocking the Suez Canal after it ran aground in a narrow stretch of the waterway was refloated Wednesday.

Witnesses said seven tugs refloated the Liberian-registered tanker, the Lauberhorn, at around 1230 GMT as the tide began to rise. It will be towed towards Suez.

At least 17 ships had been waiting at the southern entrance to the canal since the tanker ran aground late Tuesday, shipping company officials said.

The accident had temporarily closed both of the world's major canals to shipping, following a U.S. decision to close the Panama Canal Wednesday because of fighting in the Latin American country.

The Lauberhorn's Greek owners, Base Shipping Service Network, told Reuters 1,500 tonnes of oil leaked from the tanker Tuesday and one of the ship's holds was cracked. There were no signs of oil slicks on the canal.

They said the ship had run aground because of poor visibility. The Suez Canal authority was seeking \$5 million in initial damages, they added.

leased about 400 sick and wounded prisoners. But the operation was stopped with both sides accusing each other of fulfilling the number of captives seeking asylum.

Earlier this week, hopes were raised that an agreement for a prisoner swap was imminent. Akram Al Witri, chief of the Legal Department at the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, said Baghdad had responded positively to an ICRC call to this effect.

But Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati quickly reiterated the Iranian position, underlining the effort Tehran had insisted it will not agree to swap the prisoners or implement any other peace move with Iraq.

However, diplomats and United Nations officials say the two sides hold 100,000 POWs between them.

Last year, Iran and Iraq re-

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Body of SLA militiamen found in lake

RASHAYA, Lebanon (AP) — The gunned body of a militiaman with the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) was found Wednesday in a lake in Israel's self-proclaimed security zone in South Lebanon. Voice of the South, a radio station controlled by the SLA militia said Ali Qassem was driving his car through the border village of Aitaroun late Tuesday night when three shots rang out in the region. The body and the car were found in the lake the following morning, it said, giving no other details.

Israeli MP predicts release of airman

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli airman missing in Lebanon since 1986 is being held there by Iranian forces, and Israeli legislators predict progress soon towards his release, the commander of Israel's air force has said. Israel Radio quoted unidentified Israeli parliamentarians as saying the Jewish state was willing to "talk and deal" for his release and that progress could be expected in "two or three weeks." Israeli Army radio quoted the air force chief, Major-General Avihu Bin-Nun, as saying that navigator Ron Arad was held captive by Iranian fighters in Lebanon and assumed to be in good health.

Europe urged to stand up to Israel

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria Wednesday urged Europe to have the courage to stand up to Israel and back the Arab World in Middle East peace efforts ahead of a Euro-Arab conference in Paris. The official Tishreen newspaper said the meeting of foreign ministers from the 12-nation European Community and 22-nation Arab League, due to open Thursday, offered Europe a chance to understand Arab causes. The conference is being held to breathe new life into dialogue between Western Europe and the Middle East. Tishreen accused the Europeans of "not being courageous to express their real views against Israel, which occupies Arab lands and practices repressive measures against Palestinians. What we get from Europe amounts to nothing more than verbal condemnations, statements and shreygrets. Europe has not taken any effective action to prevent Israel's racial crimes," it said.

2 Iranians; deports 2 others

LONDON (AP) — Britain has announced it is deporting two Iranian students whose attorney said they believe they are suspected of plotting to kill author Salman Rushdie. Two other Iranians were freed.

The four were arrested Friday at their homes in Manchester under the Prevention of Terrorism Act that allows police to hold suspects for seven days without charge.

The home office said Tuesday that engineering students Karen Abrinia, 32, and Mehrdad Koka-bi, 33, are being deported "for reasons of national security."

Another student, Hussein Gharibi, and Javad Mousavi, a 40-year-old disabled father of four, were freed.

The four were arrested because the Iranians were arrested because "the glory and size of the demonstrations had angered British authorities."

"If England does not change its hostile stance against Islam and does not apologise to Muslims, the wave of these demonstrations in England will surely increase," the radio quoted Karrubi as saying.

The Home Office refused to say why it is expelling the two Iranians.

"Two Iranian nationals have been served with notices of intent

to deport them," said a Home Office spokesman who was not named.

Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency quoted the news paper Kayhan as saying Monday that their deportation would be conducive to the public good.

"Two other Iranian nationals who were being held have now been released from custody."

Patrick Stephenson, registrar at the University of Manchester's Institute of Science and Technology, said Karrubi read a letter Tuesday from several Iranian legislators urging their Foreign Ministry to take "appropriate" steps to protect the four Iranians.

He quoted the letter as saying the Iranians were arrested because the demonstrators had angered British authorities."

English-born Dawn Mousavi had protested the arrest of her husband, who suffers from multiple sclerosis. "Javad is innocent. I don't know why he is detained. He is not a politically active person — although we both support the Iranian government," she said.

The expulsions are expected to block tentative steps to improve relations between Britain and Iran and restore diplomatic links severed over the Rushdie affair.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:	751806
Dr. Amjad Navasir	740733
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	778959
Amman International Church Tel. 827981	685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811232	649846
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	661176
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	778959
Amman International Church Tel. 827981	685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811232	649846
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	661176
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	661176
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	778959
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Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811232	649846
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Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	661176
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	778959
Amman International Church Tel. 827981	685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811232	649846

YACOUB PHARMACY: 649445. YACOBIS PHARMACY: 637660.

WEATHER: The weather report said the oil deal was the latest in a long series of attempts to forge a relationship with Tehran, despite the fervently anti-Zionist rhetoric of its Islamic rulers who constantly preach a "holy war" to liberate Jerusalem from Jewish control.

Iran was a key Israeli ally and its main source of oil before they will abide by it," she said.

From Israel's point of view, the reported oil deal was the latest in a long series of attempts to forge a relationship with Tehran, despite the fervently anti-Zionist rhetoric of its Islamic rulers who constantly preach a "holy war" to liberate Jerusalem from Jewish control.

Iran said it took special care in requiring of its purchases that its oil not go to Israel or South Africa.

Israel declined comment. "We don't comment on oil deals of the Israeli government," said Yossi Olmert, head of the government press office.

Iran was a key Israeli ally and its main source of oil before they will abide by it," she said.

Min./max. temp. Anman 5/12. Aqaba 8/21. Deserts 2/13. Jordan Valley 9/19.

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 18, Aqaba 23. Humidity readings: Amman 33 per cent, Aqaba 29 per cent.

35 ladies graduate from UNICEF course



Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Wednesday presents a certificate to one of the participants in the two-month UNICEF course on nutrition education and growth monitoring of children. (Petra photo)

AMMAN (J.T.) — A two month training course on nutrition education and growth monitoring of children under five years of age ended here Wednesday with the graduation of 35 participants at a ceremony held under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath.

The regional office of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) sponsored the course in cooperation with the Young Muslim Women's Association (YMWVA), according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Simsa Hikmat from the association paid tribute to UNICEF for its help in providing training to local Jordanian women in means of caring for their children, Petra said.

UNICEF's Regional Director Khaled Reid said there was need for holding similar training courses to help mothers bring up healthy children.

UNICEF initially conducted a study on children's nutrition in Jordan in cooperation with the Ministry of Health. The study highlighted the need to promote awareness of mothers regarding proper feeding and weaning of infants.

Princess Sarvath later offered the premises of the Princess Sarvath College in Amman for training.

According to Petra, UNICEF,

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

PRINCE MOHAMMAD VISITS NMI: His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, Wednesday visited the National Medical Institution (NMI) and was briefed on its achievements and future plans. (Petra)

PEOPLE'S ARMY: A batch of People's Army recruits graduated Wednesday at a ceremony held at the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company complex near Karak. The recruits, who underwent a three month training course in first aid and the use of light arms, were all from the southern regions of Jordan, around Karak. The group included a large number of officials and employees from the Ghor Al Safi and Mazraa regions. Before receiving their diplomas the graduates presented a performance of their skills such as dismantling and re-assembling light arms. Several awards were presented to those excelling in their training courses.

FAQIR RECEIVES SPANISH ENVOY: Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Dr. Ali Al Faqir Wednesday discussed with Spanish Ambassador to Jordan Ramon Armengod means to bolster bilateral and cultural relations. (Petra)

AL AQSA RESTORATION COMMITTEE: Al Aqsa Restoration Committee held a meeting Wednesday under the chairmanship of Chief Islamic Justice Sheikh Mohammad Mheisan. The discussions dealt with the measures necessary to carry out the project related to restoration of the Haram Al Sharif. (Petra)

DRIVERS LICENCE: Motorists who lose their driving licence can apply for a replacement and will be issued new ones immediately upon filling a form at the concerned department, according to a statement by Public Security Department (PSD) Director General Fadel Ali Fuhaid. But the PSD chief noted that the form contains a pledge that the applicants should return the old licence when and if it was found later. (Petra) ...

AOAS MEETING ENDS: Arab specialists ended a three-day meeting at the Amman-based Arab Organisation of Administrative Sciences (AOAS) during which they reviewed means of promoting Arab countries' exports. The delegates, representing six Arab countries, reviewed working papers presented by the Arab Monetary Fund and the Council of Arab Economic Unity. (Petra)

ARBOR DAY IN TAFILEH: Tafileh Governorate announced Wednesday that it will hold Arbor Day celebrations in the coming month. Governor Khalaf Mahameh announced after a meeting that fruit and forest trees will be planted in great numbers within the governorate and along main roads in a bid to fight off the encroachment of the desert over arable land. (Petra)

ARAB POLICE DAY: Irbid Police Department held a ceremony Wednesday on the Arab Police Day anniversary. Governor Jawdat Shabot was among dignitaries who delivered a speech on the occasion paying tribute to the police force for its efforts to ensure security.

GHALEB HALASEH LAID TO REST: A funeral was held in Amman for the late Ghaleb Halaseh, the Jordanian writer and intellectual who died of a heart attack in Damascus. Minister of Culture Khaled Al Karaki took part in the funeral which was attended by Jordanian intellectuals and writers. Halaseh died at the age of 53. (Petra)

TRAINING COURSE: Five employees from the Arab Company for Drug Industries and Medical Appliances (ACDIMA) Wednesday enrolled in a specialised training course on word processor systems. The five-day course is designed to introduce the participants to the use of word processors as well as means to retrieve and print information. (Petra)

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE: Participants in a pan-Arab symposium on the role of primary health care in addressing the problems of narcotics called for fending off dangers resulting from drug addiction, and for providing specialised treatment centres in each Arab country. (Petra)

JORDAN ATTENDS BAGHDAD TALKS: Jordan took part in the meetings of experts in the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) ministries of economy, trade and supply which started in Baghdad Tuesday. Jordan's delegation to the meetings is headed by Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Mohammad Al Saqqaf. (Petra)

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An exhibition of paintings and etchings inspired by Arabic Islamic art at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.
- ★ An art exhibition by artists from Jordan and other Arab countries at Al Wasif Gallery, Plaza Hotel.
- ★ A photography exhibition on French poet de Prevert at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ The youth art exhibition at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ Contemporary Islamic fine arts exhibition by Abass Nahla at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition entitled "The Blue Rider" at the Yarmouk University.
- ★ A plastic art exhibition by Arij Al Hamad and Ibrahim Nahas at the University of Jordan.
- ★ An exhibition on public education at the Soviet Cultural Centre.

FILM

- ★ A Soviet film entitled "The Fate of A Human" at the Soviet Cultural Centre — 5:30 p.m.

Yarmouk deans discuss student clashes

IRBID (J.T.) — Deans of Yarmouk University faculties organised a meeting Wednesday to discuss implications of the recent events which involved clashes among various groups at the university campus.

Among the speakers was Dr. Khaled Al Omari, dean of the Student Affairs Department, who appealed for national unity and announced that the clashes will not deter the university from organising ceremonies and other religious and national celebrations.

Clashes took place following an exhibition organised by the university displaying various features of the on-going Palestinian intifada.

Thirteen students were involved in the clashes inside and outside the campus. They were detained and later released.

The clashes were discussed by Parliament last week and a special parliamentary committee was formed to investigate the events.

The incident, Omari noted, marred the university's image. He said that a committee set up by the university to investigate the clashes will pursue its work, and penalties will be imposed on the violators of the university's laws and regulations.

Omari announced the creation of a special student committee to help maintain order and propose suggestions that would prevent recurrence of such incidents.

Tawjiji exams on Dec. 24

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Agriculture plans to carry out programmes contained in the government policy statement to parliament and will embark on steps to establish the Jordanian Farmers Association to help carry out these programmes, Minister of Agriculture Suleiman Arabyat said in a statement Wednesday.

A draft law on the projected

federation will be first submitted to the Higher Agricultural Council at the Ministry of Agriculture before constitutional steps can be taken for the creation of the federation, the minister said at a meeting attended by members of the board of directors of the Jordan Valley Farmers Association.

Those talks would be hosted by Cairo and Baker who proposed that the meeting focus on Sharm's election plan for the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Abu Sharif said that the PLO was "ready at any time to talk to the Israelis ... and we're waiting for a date to be set for the Cairo meeting."

Panama

(Continued from page 1)

The United Nations Security Council scheduled a special session on the Panama situation and Colombia called for talks among the foreign ministers of seven Latin American countries.

Initial reaction from U.S. lawmakers was positive, both among Republicans and Democrats.

Noriega's main bodyguard, Asuncion Gaitan, spoke on the national radio network after dawn to say Noriega was "well and in a safe place."

"Don't anyone give up your positions. In the provinces, prepare to resist. The attacks are going to continue when they find we are not going to cede," he said.

A man identified only as Major Caballero said on national radio that Panamanian forces had detained 40 U.S. citizens. There was no elaboration and no further details were available. He earlier said 41 U.S. citizens were held.

Also, troops who said they are Noriega's loyalists seized three U.S. citizens from a hotel in the capital.

By dawn a pall of smoke covered the capital. Fighting continued in old Panama and San Miguelito, two districts of the capital where Noriega's paramilitary units are strongest.

The programme has been highly successful and was received enthusiastically by both hearing and deaf viewers, according to Hamzeh.

She said deaf children in Jordanian schools report they are watching the sign language broadcasts with interest and learning more about regional, national and international developments.

According to the statement the two specialists invited by UNDP to Jordan are Dr. Jean Andrews and Dr. Robert Moulton who train teachers of the deaf at Lamar University.



His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday receives the credentials of the new Algerian ambassador

King receives credentials of 6 envoys

AMMAN (J.T.) — Six newly appointed ambassadors to Jordan Wednesday presented their credentials to His Majesty King Hussein at separate ceremonies held at the Royal Court in the presence of senior court officials. The ambassadors were: Mohammad Kharroubi of Algeria, Johan Ballegoer of Belgium, Dino Sciolli of Switzerland, Francesco Dovale of Portugal, Ahmad Abdallah Mohamed of Somalia and Ahmed Bakkari Sidi Mukhtar Kuntch of Mali.

Present at the ceremonies were Chief of the Royal Court Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, King Hussein's political advisor Adnan Abu Odeh, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ishaq and Acting Foreign Minister and Minister of Information Ibrahim Izzeddin. Earlier Wednesday, the ambassadors of Portugal, Somalia and Mali handed copies of their credentials to Izzeddin as non-resident ambassadors to Jordan.

ACC labour ministers begin third meeting in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — Ministers of labour in the four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries opened their third meeting in Amman Wednesday to discuss social security issues pertaining to workers from the four ACC countries.

Minister of Labour Qaseem Ubeidat opened the sessions with an address voicing Jordan's call on Iraq, North Yemen and Egypt, Jordan's partners in the ACC, to implement an agreement reached by the four countries in September.

Jordan proposes to the ACC members to put into force the provisions of the agreement which calls for organising the

Jordan honours charitable societies

AMMAN (Petra) — Voluntary and Charitable Societies in the Kingdom were honoured Wednesday at a ceremony held on the occasion of the International Volunteer Day, an annual event organised in Jordan by the Ministry of Social Development.

Minister of Social Development Abdul Majid Shreidi distributed awards and shields to the heads of the organisations at the ceremony, and delivered a speech, paying tribute to their role in promoting social development in Jordan.

Shreidi also referred to the close cooperation between the Ministry of Social Development and the various organisations to carry out different projects benefiting the handicapped and the needy.

He referred in particular to the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAF) and the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) among others as organisations that have been instrumental in social and voluntary work in the country.

Later Wednesday, the ministers and their aides held the first meeting during which they reviewed the implementation of the agreements and a number of working papers prepared by technical committees.

He said this work is being implemented through the help of 450 charitable organisations operating in the Kingdom employing 45,000 volunteers.

Khatib also presented a review of the GUVS work in various regions including vocational training programmes and child care training courses.

Another speaker was Fakhri Bilbeisi, president of the GUVS branch in the Amman Governorate, who outlined the branch's activities.

He said this work is being implemented through the help of 450 charitable organisations operating in the Kingdom employing 45,000 volunteers.

Khatib also referred to the close cooperation between the Ministry of Social Development and the various organisations to carry out different projects benefiting the handicapped and the needy.

He said that the law will provide equal opportunities for the handicapped people in employment.

General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) President Abdullah Al Khatib addressed

UNDP to train sign language interpreters

Both specialists visited the National Speech and Hearing Centre, Al Raja School for the Deaf, Jordan Club for the Deaf, Queen Alia School for the Deaf, Queen Alia Speech and Hearing Centre, the Holy Land Institute for the Deaf in Salt, and Al Amal School for the Deaf at Oweisheh.

They have spent many hours interacting with speech pathologists, audiologists, teachers and administrators at the schools for the deaf, deaf adults, deaf children and parents of deaf children, discussing education and rehabilitation services in Jordan.

Dr. Andrews has recently published a textbook, "The Psychology of Deafness" with the psychologist, Dr. McCay Vernon who is internationally recognised for his work in mental illness, psychopathology, test development and neuropsychology with deaf and hard-of-hearing persons.

She said that the research of Dr. Vernon and others indicate that intelligence in the deaf population is normally distributed.

Andrews said that sign language is a highly developed and complex linguistic system. "One only needs to spend 15 minutes

with a deaf adult at the Jordan Deaf Club, or a student at one of the schools for the deaf, and with the aid of an interpreter, fluent in Jordanian sign language, one quickly realises that many deaf people have the same intelligence, curiosity and desire to learn as other normal people."

Andrews added. Dr. Moulton, who has already initiated and established sign language deaf education programmes in China, Central America and Mexico, said he hopes that the UNDP-sponsored training programme for sign language interpreters can be initiated here in the summer of 1990. He reported that there are individual with sign language skills already in Amman who, he said, can benefit from additional training in the procedures and ethics of interpreting as well as receiving information about the psychology and socio-linguistic consideration of the adult deaf community.

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan Ministry of Public Works and Housing Government Tenders Directorate Invitation for Tender No. 51/89/Central

The Water Authority of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation issues Addendum No. 1 to Tender No. 51/89/Central (request for proposals for upgrading and expansion of As Samra Waste Stabilisation Pond System).

ADDENDUM NO. 1 The qualification of the Jordanian engineering consultant outlined in lines 10, 11, 12 and 13 of page 1 of the RFP is changed to read as in para 1 and 2 below:

1. The qualifications of the Jordanian consultant shall include being listed as grade (company) in the fields of water and sewerage, electrical, mechanical, roads and structural projects by the Jordanian Engineers Association. If a Jordanian consulting company lacks any of these specialisations, it can form a joint venture with another listed Jordanian consulting company to cover all required specialisations."
2. The delivery date of the proposals outlined in page 3 of the RFP is postponed to not later than 13:30 Wednesday, Feb. 7, 1990.
3. Interested Jordanian consultants are requested to advise their U.S. associates of this addendum.

Director/Government Tenders Directorate Chairman of the Central Tenders Committee Eng. Salem Qudah

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Winning people's hearts

THE government's plan of action, as presented to Parliament by Prime Minister Mudar Badran Tuesday, shows beyond any shadow of doubt that the prime minister and his government have reacted most positively to the contemporary concerns of the people of Jordan and reciprocated most favourably their aspirations and hopes. A fast glance at Prime Minister Badran's outline of his government's policies and priorities would readily reveal that he intends to extend a hand of cooperation to the newly elected Parliament and win its vote of confidence on the basis of his assured sympathy with and understanding of people's agonies and sentiments. By and large Badran's programme gives a lion's share to domestic ailments and sufferings. That is exactly what the people of the Kingdom have in mind in view of the multitude of hardships that they had to encounter in recent times whether economic or political. Suffice to recall that Prime Minister Badran has responded most positively and favourably to His Majesty King Hussein's directives and populist yearning for an end to the martial law regime in the country. While jurists may debate the full legal meaning and implications of the decision to "freeze" the application of martial law as distinguished from abrogating it, there is no doubt that the government is set on lifting martial law completely from Jordan's legal books in the most thorough legal manner possible, and in the shortest possible time. The prime minister deserves to be congratulated on his bold decision regarding this matter and for the extent that he is prepared to go to in eliminating the consequences of the application of martial law during the past years.

Equally important are the prime minister's appreciation and understanding of the concern of all citizens about corruption, especially in the public sector, and the rectification of past abuses of authority. In this vein the government's determination to pursue with vigour all past omissions or commissions that led to the near collapse of the country's economy is just music in the ears of the people. There has always been a general feeling that there were some people who milked the country dry over the past years and now is the time to ask questions and make those people accountable.

One can go on and on delineating the many salient features of the prime minister's policy statement. They include assurances on the freedom of the press; amendment or even cancellation of all legislations that are in conflict with the new spirit of liberalisation in the country; the on-going articulation of the National Pact on the basis of which political parties will be established; the investigation and elimination in due course of poverty from the ranks of Jordanians, to give only a few examples. What is perhaps more important and relevant is the spirit with which the government intends to pursue its goals. What shines out most brilliantly is the prime minister's desire to avoid confrontation with Parliament and to substitute that with meaningful dialogue and cooperation. For many Jordanians, Mudar Badran has already won the vote of confidence because he has already won their hearts.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily Wednesday discussed the policy statement of Prime Minister Mudar Badran as presented to Parliament on Tuesday to win a vote of confidence. The paper described the statement as comprehensive, covering all issues of concern to the public and clearly indicating that the government is determined to carry out a reform programme designed to restore democracy in the true sense of the word. The statement, read out to the deputies by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, did not only dwell on questions of interest to Parliament and the citizens of Jordan but rather dealt with issues that were believed by many as not yet ripe for discussion, the paper noted. It said that there is no exaggeration in saying that the new government has now set the stage for a long and intensive work aimed at continuing the task begun by the former Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and achieving the noble objectives in which the Jordanian people believe. Since the government is genuinely oriented towards carrying out reform and enhancing the democratic and parliamentary life, the paper said, the Jordanian people ought to respond favourably and undertake responsible action to help the government shoulder its heavy duty on all fronts.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Wednesday urged the Arab countries in general and the members of the Arab Cooperation Council in particular to follow the example of the European nations in their march towards achieving unity by the end of 1992. Fahd Al Faneek draws attention to the fact that the Europeans who initiated their economic cooperation in 1957, could not take a decision to fully integrate their countries before 1985, and made it clear that this process would not be possible to complete before the lapse of at least seven years. The writer also notes that the European countries unified their systems and regulations; and liberated themselves from restrictions in a slow and carefully planned stages. He says that over the past years, the heads of European governments faced numerous problems, but had been able to resolve many of them one by one, thus paving the ground for the full integration in the coming decade. Fahd Al Faneek criticises the contents of working papers prepared by the Arab Cooperation Council which propose immediate action leading to unity among Egypt, Jordan, Iraq and North Yemen. He says that the Arabs ought to take a lesson from the Europeans and take ample time to prepare for their unity.

Al Dustour daily newspaper hailed the policy statement of the government of Prime Minister Mudar Badran, referring in particular to its decision to freeze martial law prior to its final cancellation. This announcement made to Parliament by Prime Minister Mudar Badran is a very welcome step, long expected by the people of Jordan.

Campaigning for human rights in the Arab World

By Liesl Graz

"THE CONCEPT of human rights is a degenerate, Western imperialist notion," a Middle Eastern delegate thundered in a United Nations commission in Geneva a few years ago. Since then, for most Middle Eastern countries the rhetoric has changed; but with a few shining exceptions the reality has not. Take the difficulties faced by the respectable Arab Centre for Human Rights (AOHR) in trying to do its modest bit. No Arab country would allow it to hold its first general assemblies on its soil; now Tunisia has accepted the next assembly to be held in March 1990. The last one was in Sudan, but that, as AOHR's president, Adib al-Jadir, put it wistfully, "was before last July's coup." Recognition as an official observer organisation at the United Nations came, without much help or enthusiasm on the part of Arab governments, this year — after previous attempts were blocked.

AOHR headquarters are ostensibly in Cairo, but they have

no official status; the secretary-general, Muhammad Faiq, is usually there but a second office has been established in Geneva, closer to the United Nations bodies concerned with human rights. Just as important is the fact that it exists, with duplicates of all the documents, ready to carry on, just in case...

AOHR grew out of a meeting of 100 Arab intellectuals called by the respectable Arab Centre for Unity Studies in 1983. "The point," as Mr al-Jadir, now president of AOHR, puts it, "was to see what had gone wrong with the dreams of the decades before." Another Arab observer, who prefers to remain anonymous, wryly notes, "that was the first act of courage, because Arab meetings are more prone to self-satisfaction or self-delusion than to looking at their own failings. The Israeli scapegoat was only too handy for explaining why revolutions didn't work, and blaming the legacy of colonialism was becoming a slightly worn excuse for why an inordinate number of the sovereign Arab countries ignored most of the civil rights of their own citizens."

That meeting, held in Cyprus because no Arab capital would have it, decided that talking about democracy in the Arab World was pointless without first doing something about human rights. Many brave people signed the first manifesto; the only ones who were excused from doing so, as being in a situation too dangerous for themselves and for their families, were the Iraqis present.

A movement of exiles

Not surprisingly, many of the active members of the AOHR are or have been political exiles: Iraqis form the largest contingent, along with Syrians, Libyans, Bahrainis and others. Not all human rights activists have to work abroad. Several Arab countries have more or less officially accepted branches of the AOHR: Algeria (after the riots of last October), Morocco, Tunisia, Sudan (until it was dissolved last July). Some tolerate them without giving official status; Jordan, Kuwait and Yemen each have over 100 members of the organisation and Mr. al-Jadir says

widen sanctions against China and allow students to remain in the United States indefinitely.

Next to their visa status, financing is the main worry of the Chinese groups, which share a scrappy, penny-pinched look.

The China Information Centre is one of the better housed, in a two-storey frame house provided by an ecumenical religious group. It pays rent when it can.

The Independent Federation of Chinese Students and Scholars, based in Washington, was formed by Chinese student groups on a number of campuses around the country. In Chicago, six Chinese students tape daily half-hour programmes of news and commentary that are broadcast into China on shifting frequencies as "the Voice of June 4."

The movement's only newspaper to date is the Press Freedom Herald in Los Angeles. Yan Zhongmei, a Chinese visiting scholar in Tokyo, has started a magazine, Democratic China.

Spiritual grandfather to all the groups is the Chinese Alliance for Democracy, formed seven years ago by a Chinese student defector. From a small apartment in New York City, the alliance publishes the anti-Communist magazine China Spring.

The alliance offers a sobering example to newcomers: Although it has found steady if sparse financial support and survived bitter internal splits, it can claim to have influenced only small groups of urban Chinese, despite efforts of underground members in China.

Chinese exiles work to keep democracy movement alive

By Kathy Wilhelmi
The Associated Press

SOMERVILLE, Massachusetts — Six months ago, Chinese students around the world rallied by thousands and hastily formed aid committees after the bloody military crackdown on demonstrating classmates in Peking.

Today, foreign interest in their cause has waned, donations have fallen off and internal bickering over personalities and policy has hurt their credibility.

The exiled students watch wistfully as movements of the people sweep Eastern Europe's Communist parties from power and overshadow China's continuing crackdown.

Nonetheless, a core of activists, led by students who survived the June 3-4 violence in Peking are pressing forward.

Today, foreign interest in their cause has waned, donations have fallen off and internal bickering over personalities and policy has hurt their credibility.

"It is our duty to speak before the hole world: Chinese people are suffering," said Li La, 23, one of only two students who escaped in June while on the Chinese government's most-wanted list of 21 students. He now studies economics at Columbia University in New York City but says his career will be fighting for human rights in China.

"I feel deeply guilty," said Li, pressing his hand to his heart. His wife, whom he married amid the brief student banners carried by protesters gathered at Tiananmen Square, remains in China.

In world history, exile groups have a poor record of achieving change at home. Prospects are especially bleak for the exiles from China, where many of the 1.1 billion people are semi-literate peasants with little awareness of events abroad.

"What we do here is limited," acknowledged An Wei, who came from Peking to study and now works part-time at the China Information Centre in the Boston suburb of Newton. The centre was set up in May to get news about Chinese political developments into and out of China.

"Any change (in China) will have to happen from within. But external pressure can have an impact," he said. "If we send in 100 fax and only 10 get into the hands of concerned people, that will help."

Results may be slow in coming, said 21-year-old Wu'er Kaixi, the other key student leader to escape. He is studying at Harvard.

"We must wait for a good opportunity. It could be Deng Xiaoping's death or another student movement or changes in the military," he said. "When it comes, we have to be ready... to return in a minute to China and play a role."

Wu'er is one of the leaders of the Front for a Democratic China, founded in Paris in September and the most prominent of the overseas Chinese activist groups.

In an overheated apartment in an aging frame house in Somerville, just outside Boston, Wu'er and fellow Chinese students run the front's main U.S. office. They write speeches for his frequent public appearances, lobby for foreign sanctions against China and plot to spirit other dissidents out.

From dozens of makeshift offices and homes across the United States and abroad, other exile groups also churn out news releases and manifestos demanding democracy and smuggle anti-government materials into China.

A week ago, their goal of persuading foreign governments to pressure China on human rights was dealt a blow by the trip to Peking of U.S. national security adviser Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger and a White House aide, the first high-level American officials to visit since the killings in June. U.S. officials said the visit was meant to mend strained ties between the two governments.

But even before Scowcroft's visit, many activists said they were disappointed by the official American stance. The U.S. consulate in Hong Kong refused visas to many fleeing Chinese dissidents. U.S. President George Bush has vetoed bills that tried to

block the movement's only newspaper to date is the Press Freedom Herald in Los Angeles. Yan Zhongmei, a Chinese visiting scholar in Tokyo, has started a magazine, Democratic China.

Spiritual grandfather to all the groups is the Chinese Alliance for Democracy, formed seven years ago by a Chinese student defector.

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A more active role for non-alignment

The following interview with Dr. Esmat Abdul Meguid, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs of Egypt is reprinted from the Belgrade-based Review of International Affairs.

Question: How do you assess the present situation in the world, a decisive characteristic of which is the process of understanding among the great powers?

Answer: We consider recent international developments especially superpower rapprochement and settlement of several regional issues as positive and welcome. Egypt, together with Yugoslavia, and India have dedicated their efforts since the Brioni Conference of 1956 towards the achievement of world peace through detente and a just settlement of regional conflicts. This has become a main objective of the Movement of Non-Aligned States. The success of that process is in itself a vindication of the principles and policy of non-alignment.

Two aspects in these developments do, however, necessitate vigilance. The first is the fact that role of the developing countries especially within the Non-Aligned Movement vis-a-vis these developments has been marginal. The second is the fact that the positive impact of these developments did not encompass the deteriorating economic situation especially in the developing countries. We feel that, for detente to be solid and enduring, it should involve Third World countries and should encompass all issues of potential impact on world peace and stability. This definitely includes social and economic problems. Participation in the emerging evolution of international relations should therefore be a main goal of the Non-Aligned Movement in the near future. The movement, comprising more than two thirds of the world's community of nations, is by right entitled and capable of playing a more active role in the ensuring developments.

Question: What is your opinion on the state of international eco-

nomic relations and, in particular, on the position of the developing countries and on the problems they confront, such as the debt problem and others?

Answer: There is a general consensus within the movement that economic issues are acquiring increasing importance and that problems of economic development head the priority consensus of its countries. In this field, we offer the following suggestions:

(1) NAM should consolidate its two-tier approach to this issue — first through the strengthening of collective self-reliance by concrete steps in the direction of enhanced South-South cooperation. There is need to review the Action Programme for Economic Cooperation to increase its effectiveness. The example of the Egyptian — Yugoslav — Indian tripartite cooperation is a model in this regard.

The Second approach is to reactivate and revitalise North-South cooperation, adjusting to changes anticipated with the evolution in 1992 of the European unified market. This process should be based on open dialogue, mutuality of interests, and a constructive equitable attempt at solving all interrelated issues of money, finance, trade, debt and development. The four-nation initiative of Egypt, India, Senegal and Venezuela calling for a high level meeting of developing countries on economic issues offers, in our view, a practical approach to the revitalisation of North-South dialogue.

(2) Science and technology should henceforth figure high in the interest of the movement. Transfer of technology, especially from the developed countries has acquired great importance for ensuring rapid economic development.

Question: What is your opinion on the state of international eco-

related to the protection of the environment.

Question: In the process of the conversion of the world from a bipolar to a multipolar one, the circumstances in which the movement of non-alignment operates are changing as well. What do you think should be done to ensure that the movement of non-alignment performs its tasks and pursues its goals more effectively in the days to come?

Answer: Recent international developments offer new opportunities for the Non-Aligned Movement. They also confront it with new challenges. To start with, the principles of non-alignment remain as valid and relevant in the rapidly changing world scene. The movement should, however, adjust and adapt to these changes through an evolution of its methods of action and overall perceptions of international centres of political or economic power. This can only be achieved more effectively through dialogue with all grouping and key factors on the international scene based on a recognition of the increasing interdependence of interests.

The main task facing the movement now is how to ensure for itself a worthy role, as a representative of more than two thirds of the world population, in the shaping of events guaranteeing the interests of its member states. This could be achieved through more dynamism in its methods of work by offering practical and action-oriented initiatives. It should also free itself from the same cumbersome and lengthy documentation. Priorities have to be reviewed and coordination must be enhanced.

We, in Egypt, fully support Yugoslavia in its dedicated efforts to revitalise and reinvigorate the movement. We have great confidence in the ability of NAM under the chairmanship of your great country to give a fresh impetus and a new sense of purpose to the movement to meet the challenges ahead.

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JPD, int'l

Or Deported: The story of one Palestinian

Susan Qaddoumi interviews an exiled Palestinian in Cairo to find out why he was expelled.

...over was the...
had as far as...
authorities...
branch...
then...
complaints...
members...
ABDULLAH ABU SAMHADANEH, alias Abu Iyad, 39, was a member of one of the pro-Fatah members of popular committees in Gaza, now in Cairo. He was tortured by the Israeli Defence Forces for one year and eight months, was imprisoned for 10 months, and then expelled. His major charge was that he was a member of the Fatah Movement in Gaza, financing popular committees and possessing grenades.

On Jan. 1, 1989 he was taken into custody from his Rafah home and transported by helicopter to the south of Lebanon. After a short spell in prison, he was arrested who led a military uprising in Jabalya. Grenades were found and during interrogation he said I was their commander and supplier.

There must be some truth to all of this.

People involved with the coordination of the General Command were my friend and colleagues. All people living under the occupation were co-operating with each other and fighting together: Fatah, Hamas, Hawatmeh, Islamic Jihad...yes, they have some relationship with me but I was not a leader of Fatah. I was just a man living day to day under the occupation.

Near the time of your deportation various members of the Islamic Jihad were expelled from

Gaza, for example Dr. Fathi Shakkouri, Sheikh Abdul Aziz Odeh, Ahmad Mahanun and Muhammad Abu Samra. What is your connection with them?

Inside the occupied territories we were tied by friendship, particularly in the beginning. Some lectured at the Islamic University with me... but after that when they became a real organisation in 1986 or 1987, I was in prison. Some of them were jailed along with me.

A few years ago the Islamic Jihad was successful in scoring a number of weapons coups off the Gaza coast. Do they sell any of these to Fatah?

The Islamic Jihad is a secret organisation. They work independently and don't share weapons.

During my last trip to Gaza I was told that it is possible to buy weapons from Israeli soldiers.

There have been many successful attempts to buy weapons from Israeli soldiers. They may sell for hashish or cocaine...many of them were ready to sell their weapons or to steal from their camps. They sold to anyone who would pay.

Is this special group or network of soldiers is a general... General corruption. Most Palestinian weapons of the last seven or eight years are Israeli weapons.

You were in prison when the intifada broke out. What was your reaction?

The intifada was not a sudden event. It was a sudden event for

those people who are not within the occupied territories. We, especially those of us within its infrastructure were planning for such a date. The timing was early however. There had been clashes and waves in October, November, and December of 1987. We were expecting the intifada to begin inclusively on the first of January, on the anniversary of the establishment of the Fatah Movement in 1965. The lorry incident of Dec. 8, served as the intifada's early catalyst.

What is the origin of the intifada?

The intifada started in the early 1980's as a network of cells. We had a small intifada in Gaza in 1982, but our infrastructure was not strong, and we didn't have a unified leadership. We benefited by the experience however, and learned that the idea was to build a frame of people tied together and under order of the revolution.

Some say the intifada saved Yasser Arafat and the PLO from extinction. Abu Ammar is a great leader who passed through many obstacles... the Jordan massacres in 1970, Tel Zatar in 1976, Sabra and Shatila in 1982, and Tripoli in 1983. Many thought 1982 would be the end. The PLO made the intifada, it was not the intifada which made the PLO. The intifada is a stream that pushed the PLO forward. In October (of 1987) on Monte Carlo Radio he said "wave after wave will continue," meaning that one day the



Abdullah Abu Samhadaneh and his family at his home in exile in Ma'arrat Geddida

intifada would be inclusive for all people.

What is your prognosis for the intifada?

It will continue until the establishment of a Palestinian state... at least the West Bank and Gaza Strip, with some line joining them.

Is this enough?

It is enough to have a Palestinian passport, I.D. card, and airport to transfer from when going to other countries, but first we need land... The Palestinian revolution has even asked for an identification card for Palestinians. We are expecting the future will give us self-determination and the establishment of a state, the rights of all the people in the world.



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Jerusalem/Intermarkets Jordan

Pharaoh's village: The masterpiece of an Egyptian inventor

By Katia Sabet

vered the existence of paper from Chinese prisoners in Samarkand, they abandoned their papyrus technique to adopt the much cheaper and simpler method of using cellulose pulp. The papyrus plants were uprooted and the species disappeared.

Explains Dr. Ragab: "First I went to Sudan to find Cypress papyrus plants which I cultivated along the Nile next to my home — a floating house called Dabacia. After just one year I had a sizable crop and I could start my experiments. Nowhere was there any indications on how our ancestors did it. Probably because it was a state monopoly and the secret was jealously guarded. Even the famous Roman author Pliny the Ancient gave some fantastic explanations of the process. I did not even know what part of the plant was used... I decided to go look at the old documents written on papyrus which are on display at the Paris Louvres museum, and at the British museum, but it took me five years of failed essays and small successes before I was able to produce my first papyrus sheet — a carbon copy of the papyrus made thousands of years ago."

Despite the sweet taste of success, Dr. Ragab was appalled at finding his finances drained: threatened with total ruin he had the idea of having some paintings done on his papyrus sheets and offering them for sale at Cairo's Sheraton Hotel which had just opened not far from his house. The painted sheets were gone in a day, so he made more which went just as fast.

He started to sell the painted papyrus from his house, which almost capsized one day under the weight of too many tourists. Yet he never advertised: only the government guided clients to his "Dahabeia."

Now the making of papyrus holds no secret: scores of small businesses are producing them and painted ones bearing ancient scenes or hieroglyphs are for sale all over Cairo, Alexandria and other touristic areas. The aquatic plant is collected for its stem whose central pith is cut into thin strips, pressed together and dried to form a smooth, thin writing surface. A whole province — the Charkia — is cultivating papyrus.

"I never expected that this papyrus business would become so important," Dr. Ragab says, as he excuses himself. "At first I only wanted to make a few papyrus sheets to produce a small volume." The inspiration came from China, where he served as ambassador and where he had the occasion to see an old paper mill. The visit, started him thinking about Egypt's traditional papyrus industry whose secret had been lost for a thousand years. Back in Egypt Dr. Ragab was confronted with two major problems: the old papyrus plant had disappeared from the region, and there was no bind together the vegetal fibers which had been lost.

In the old days papyrus grew in abundance in the Nile delta marshes, but when Arabs discovered

building small boats using papyrus stems, and spinning and weaving lines whose tall stalks sway with the wind.

"We inaugurated the village in 1984," Dr. Ragab said, "and we are still adding new settings. About 1000 visitors come everyday, half of them schoolchildren and students.

Dr. Ragab's two business ventures — the Papyrus Institute and the Pharaoh's Village — employ about 300 people full-time, while artists and calligraphers who decorate the papyrus sheets are paid by the piece. Everything runs smoothly and with efficiency. The secret for success is simple, according to Dr. Ragab: "I just like to do things that nobody has done before." When a piece of equipment does not give him satisfaction, he fashions an improved one, for example the solar

compass he made for the Egyptian army in 1943 and which was used for many years.

Sometimes the instrument he needs does not exist, so he invents one, for example a machine to repair damaged papyrus sheets without leaving any marks. That won him the Rolex prize in 1984.

Since childhood Dr. Ragab has seen very different faces of Egypt: he remembers well the Egypt of the Khedives.

The problem with trying to get Dr. Ragab to talk about the past is that he has little interest in it, beyond stocking mementos. He is fully involved in the present and looks to the future for inspiration. Despite being hit hard by the death of his wife of 53 years about a year ago, he still looks ready to tackle anything — World News Link.

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U.S. grants Jordan \$5.5 million

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Wednesday presented Jordan with a \$5.5 million grant, to be used for short and medium term loans to small enterprises throughout the country.

The loans will be made through local commercial and investment banks. The agreement was signed by Minister of Finance Basel Jarash, U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Roscoe S. Suddarth and Director of USAID Lewis Reade.

Through the grant fund, the banks can insure 50-75% of the principal and interest for qualifying loans to small businesses.

A greater proportion of the principal and interest will be guaranteed for loans to businesses located outside of Amman and loans to businesses owned by women.

Loans made under the loan guarantee programme will depend on cash flow analysis to determine loan eligibility. Cash flow analysis permits a bank to base its decision to lend money on a customer's ability to repay the loan, which is a function of the customer's business performance. Collateral requirements will be reduced accordingly.

Mr. Thomas Tengg, a banker with 20 years experience, is in

Jordan as an advisor to the programme through the Industrial

Development Bank for the next three years.

E. Germans want right to strike

EAST BERLIN (R) — East German trade unions are demanding the right to virtually manage businesses in the post-communist era and to strike if they feel workers' rights are being trampled. Elements of a draft trade union law worked out over the weekend will give unions extensive legal power in the workplace to inspect company accounts and veto changes in production and staffing. The unions have the legal right to strike as a last resort on behalf of the interests of the workers," the draft stated, according to the trade union newspaper, Tribune. Beyond the right to pay-bargaining, the new East German unions should be "guaranteed the right to inspect company documents" and be informed by management, it said. "Union representatives have the right at any time to carry out their activities and set up facilities in the workplace without hindrance," the draft added. They should also share in important decisions concerning changes in production, hiring and firing, and the creation of new production facilities.

Gulf oil producers gear up for more demand

DUBAI (R) — Gulf oil states, while cutting output next year under an OPEC pact, are pressing ahead with multi-billion dollar plans to raise their production capacity to meet a projected surge in oil demand in 1990.

Oil industry analysts think the Gulf's five big producers, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Iran and Iraq, may cut up to one million barrels per day (BPD) in January from their current estimated output of around 16 million BPD.

But the five, which have two-thirds of the world's proven oil reserves, are also pursuing projects which analysts estimate will add at least seven million BPD to

their production capacity in the next five to 10 years.

The International Energy Agency, the West's energy watchdog, predicts that the Middle East's share of world oil supplies will rise to 34 per cent in 2005 from about 24 per cent in 1988.

Saudi Arabia, OPEC's biggest producer, has launched a 10-year programme costing more than \$15 billion to raise its capacity from an estimated 6.5 million BPD to 10 million.

Abu Dhabi, the UAE's biggest producer, is working on plans to increase onshore capacity from one million BPD to 1.25 million initially and to 1.7 million in

next six years. It also plans to raise offshore capacity.

Iran and Iraq, 16 months after a ceasefire ended fighting in their devastating Gulf war, are struggling to raise output capacity to earn cash to pay for reconstruction.

Oil industry analysts believe Iran could boost its capacity to four million BPD from just over three million in the next two years. They think Iraq could add one million to its 3.5 million BPD capacity within the next 18 months.

Analysts estimate OPEC's 13 members are now pumping around 23.5 million BPD and it is not clear how far the agreement would mop excess output from the market if the UAE stayed out of the pact claiming that its allocated quota was too small.

In the meantime, all Gulf states want to keep prices at around current levels to pay for the ex-

pansion projects. Middle East benchmark crude Dubai was on sale on Wednesday in Tokyo at \$17.70 per barrel.

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) agreed last month to limit its output to 22 million BPD in the first half of 1990, but the UAE stayed out of the pact claiming that its allocated quota was too small.

Analysts estimate OPEC's 13 members are now pumping around 23.5 million BPD and it is not clear how far the agreement would mop excess output from the market if the UAE stayed out of the pact claiming that its allocated quota was too small.

In the meantime, all Gulf states want to keep prices at around current levels to pay for the ex-

Japanese adopt more import promotion measures

TOKYO (AP) — The Japanese government has adopted import promotion measures, including the nation's first import tax incentive, to boost its purchases of foreign manufactured products, officials said Wednesday.

Under the programme, Japanese manufacturing firms that increase imports by more than 10 per cent will be granted a tax reduction equal to 5 per cent of the amount of increase in imports, or allowed to set aside the equivalent of 10 per cent or 20 per cent as tax-free money in their depreciation accounts.

Retailers and wholesalers, including trading companies, will be allowed to set aside 20 per cent of the increased import value to be used for the marketing of imported products.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday, December 20, 1989

Central Bank official rates

Buy	Sell	French franc	108.5	109.6
644.0	650.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	471.1	451.6
1020.1	1040.4	Dutch guilder	328.3	331.6
370.3	374.0	Swedish crown	102.4	103.4
412.9	417.0	Italian lira (for 100)	49.9	50.4
		Belgian franc (for 10)	176.9	178.7

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1,604.55	U.S. dollars	Canadian dollar
One U.S. dollar	1,160.515	1,732.532	Deutschmarks
1,956.575	1,553.646	Dutch guilders	Swiss francs
36.40/44	5.9150/200	Belgian francs	French francs
1291/1292	143.85/95	Italian lire	Japanese yen
6,2780/830	6,6840/90	Swedish crowns	Norwegian crowns
6,7360/410	6,7360/410	Danish crowns	U.S. dollars
One ounce of gold	411.25/411.75		

WORLD STOCK MARKET REPORTS

SYDNEY — Demand for resources and quality industrial stocks helped shares close higher. The All-Ordinaries finished 5.8 points up at 1,638.2.

TOKYO — Index-linked buying lifted the Nikkei but in the broader market losers outnumbered winners in active trade. The Nikkei firmed 72.90 points to close at 38,512.00 after dropping 147.08 Tuesday.

HONG KONG — Shares ended easier in dull trade blamed on the holiday season and lack of fresh corporate news. The Hang Seng Index lost 10.93 points to close at 2,868.49.

SINGAPORE — Prices closed mixed as selected buying and bargain-hunting alternated with profit-taking. The Straits Times Industrial rose 7.71 points to finish at 1,439.89.

BOMBAY — Prices drifted lower on scattered profit-taking as the market ran out of steam after opening firm.

FRANKFURT — Prices surged upwards as foreign investors scrambled to increase holdings in the West German market, expected to be one of 1990's top performers. The Real-Time 30-Share Dax Index rose 27.51 to 1,675.01.

ZURICH — The market was firm but volume was low as many institutional investors had closed their books for the year. The All-Swiss Performance Index gained 6.2 to 1,118.7.

PARIS — Prices closed higher, helped by a late wave of buying on Paribas in an otherwise thin and cautious market. The CAC-40 index gained 19.29 to 1,951.31.

LONDON — Shares closed firm after some initial weakness on concerns over U.S. military action in Panama. At the close, the FTSE index was up 18.6 at 2,360.7.

NEW YORK — Stocks rose on hopes by traders that the Federal Reserve's addition of money into the banking system indicated an easing of credit policy. The Dow was up six at 2,701.

FAO warns of famine in Ethiopia

ROME (R) — FAO Chief Edouard Saouma called on Wednesday for a major international relief operation to prevent thousands of people dying from famine in Ethiopia.

In a year-end statement the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation Director-general described the 1980s as a "lost decade for development" in many Third World countries and said Western aid to Eastern Europe should not be provided at the expense of the developing world.

The beginning of the 1990s was once again marked by the spectre of famine in parts of Africa, Saouma said, citing severe food shortages in the Ethiopian provinces of Eritrea and Tigray, in southern Sudan, Mozambique and Angola. In each country civil strife had complicated relief work.

"Only an international relief operation of major proportions can avert widespread loss of life in northern Ethiopia once again. The world cannot allow a repetition of the disastrous famine that struck Ethiopia just five years ago."

"The population at risk is increasing at an alarming rate... it is already clear that food supplies in the affected areas will be exhausted during the first few months of 1990 unless urgent

action is taken by the international community to pledge additional food assistance and to deliver it swiftly to the hungry," he added.

Saouma hailed the improvement in East-West relations during the 1980s, saying he hoped spending on arms would be diverted in future to the fight against hunger, malnutrition and poverty.

He welcomed the prospect of the Soviet Union becoming a member of FAO, thus enabling the organisation to play a truly universal role."

But noting pledges by Western nations to increase economic and food aid to Eastern Europe, he said: "such assistance to the second world must not be at the expense of the developing countries of the Third World where the need is still great."

The FAO chief said the population explosion, foreign debt and trade barriers had prevented progress in many poor countries in the 1980s, particularly Latin America and Africa, saying it had been a "lost decade for development."

More than 500 million people were undernourished today and malnutrition was likely to remain a key problem in the 1990s.

World cereal production reached 1,877 million tons in 1989, 10 million tons more than



another decade. World population is increasing by some 80 million a year. By the year 2000 there will be more than six billion people to feed with 90 per cent of the increase in the developing world," he said.

"We cannot afford to lose

earlier trade and cooperation arrangements.

GCC members — Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — will have to adopt common import tariffs before the pact can take effect. Gulf officials have warned that failure to do so could hold up an agreement with the EC.

The negotiators of a free trade agreement will have to tackle a range of issues sidestepped by the region duty-free.

EC, Gulf states to negotiate free trade

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Community Tuesday agreed a mandate for negotiations on a free trade agreement with Arab states in the Gulf to supplement a preliminary trade and cooperation pact signed last year.

The six member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have been urging the community to lift tariffs on their petrochemical, refined and aluminium products to help narrow a trade

deficit that totalled \$4.4 billion last year.

The free trade agreement, whose mandate was approved by EC foreign ministers at a meeting here, the 12-nation community would scrap all customs duties on Gulf imports except those applied to designated sensitive products.

The GCC, for its part, would phase out customs duties over 10 years with the exception of those covered by special safeguard

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Gulf Air postpones share flotation

BAHRAIN (R) — Bahrain-based Gulf Air said Tuesday it had postponed plans for a public share flotation. The airline's president and chief executive Ali Al Malki told reporters the company had decided to shelve plans to give Gulf nationals ownership of half the company until the airline showed a period of steady profit. "We are ready to go ahead with the idea but our board of directors have decided to wait for a period of economic stability and until Gulf Air's profits are also stable," he said. Gulf Air returned to the black in 1988 with net profit of 2.5 million dinars (\$6.6 million) after two years of losses during a regional recession prompted by low oil prices. The airline, owned by the governments of Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and Abu Dhabi, predicted last October its 1989 profit would jump to around 30 million dinars (\$80 million).

U.S. to export satellites to China

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush has approved the export of three satellites to China and lifted prohibitions on financing of U.S. business with China, removing a major part of sanctions imposed after the crackdown in Peking last June. The White House announcement Tuesday followed revelations that top government officials had visited China on at least two occasions after the government banned high level contacts in response to the Tiananmen square massacre. In a letter to the speaker of the House, Bush said the sale of the U.S.-built communications satellites, which will be sent into space on Chinese-built launch vehicles, and removing the financing restriction on the U.S. Export Import Bank were in the national interest. "I am thereby waiving the prohibitions on the Export-Import Bank's financing any trade with, and on extending any loan, credit, credit guarantee, insurance or reinsurance to the People's Republic of China...." Bush wrote.

Norway may drop oil production limits

BERGEN, Norway (AP) — Norway may end its informal cooperation with OPEC by lifting an oil production quota imposed in 1986 to help stabilise crude prices, a newspaper reported Wednesday. The Bergens Tidene daily said Prime

Minister Jan P. Syse and Oil Minister Eivind Reitan met with parliamentary leaders late Tuesday to seek support for ending the voluntary quota, under which Norway's North Sea fields produce 7.5 per cent less than capacity. Oil ministry spokesman Egil Helle said only that the limit, imposed for six months at a time, was up for review. "There will be a decision in the near future," he said.

The Bergens Tidene said Norway's coalition government, led by the Conservative Party, will announce its decision Friday. The quota was imposed by the former Labour Party government. It was seen as a gesture supporting efforts by the Organisation of Oil Exporting Countries to limit production after crude prices collapsed in 1986.

Poland licenses first foreign bank

WARSAW (R) — A newly-formed Polish-American bank on Tuesday became the first foreign bank in half a century authorised to start operations in Poland. Grzegorz Wojciech, a vice-president of the National Bank of Poland (NBP), handed a licence to executives of the American Bank in Poland (ABP) at a brief ceremony at NBP's headquarters. The joint venture bank, which has an initial \$7.5 million capital, hopes to start commercial operations in Warsaw within six months. Poland's former Communist leaders launched banking reforms in January that introduced several independent domestic commercial banks after half a century of state banking monopoly. But ABP is the first foreign bank to start up as Poland moves towards capitalism under a Solidarity-led government established in September.

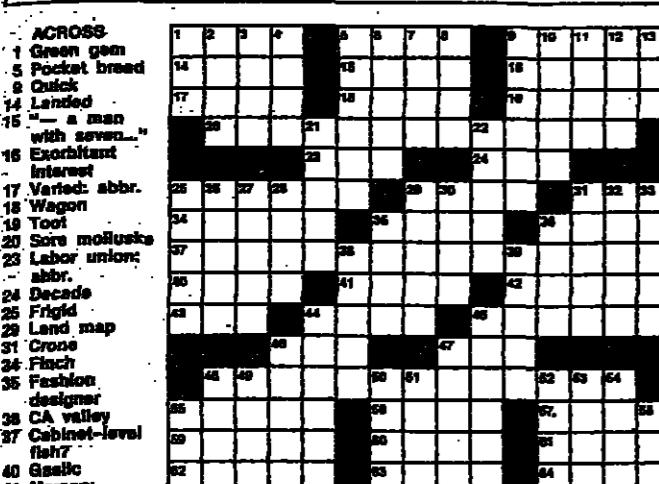
Steel output dropped in November

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — Crude steel production by non-Communist nations decreased by 2.3 per cent in November from a year earlier, dropping by 908,000 tons to 39,035 million tons, the Brussels-based International Iron and Steel Institute said Wednesday. November output was also down 2 million tons from October. For the 11 months through November, output was up 7.8 million tons or 1.9 per cent to 442,523 million tons. U.S. and EC production were both lower, with the U.S. declining 4.1 per cent from a year earlier to 6.8 million tons. EC output dropped to 11,542 million tons, a drop of 4.3 per cent. Japanese output, however, rose by 1.1 per cent in November.

Peanuts



THE Daily Crossword by Dorothy S. Martin



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1989

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation
GENERAL TENDENCIES: The sun enters Capricorn today just after the double Moon square of Saturn and Mercury which will restrict A.M. activity and bring about a change in your original plans.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Use a little money to make your home more attractive, then you will be able to invite interesting friends there.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Two family members will bring practical benefits into your home. There are several new ways by which you will be able to add to your income.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Avoid discussing secret matters in the presence of good and polite friends. In any family conference hold them in the strictest confidence.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You have much charm now, so contact as many friends as possible. Don't get involved in an argument between attachment and friend.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Don't argue at home about some outside or public interest, even though you feel other magnetism remains true to your close attachment.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Enter with pleasure into all the activities at your home — it may be difficult with your attachment now, but be sure you do so.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Two friendly couples from a distance can make this an active pleasant day. An important project

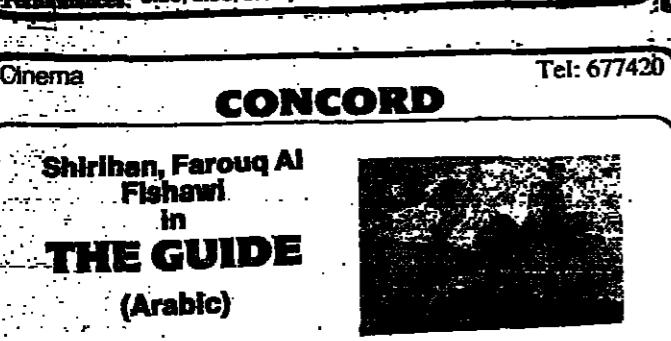
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GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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WHAT'S THE HURRY?

Neither vulnerable, South deals.

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♥ J 10 4

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WEST

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EAST

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♥ 9 3 2

♥ A 7 4

♦ J 9 8 4 3

SOUTH

♦ A 5

♦ Q 8 6

♦ K Q 3

♦ A 6

The bidding:

South West North East

2 NT Pass 3 NT Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♦

Great holdup men of the past got their names on wanted posters. The holdup artists of the bridge table are written in bridge columns.

South was an old-fashioned player who still believed an opening bid of two not trump showed a balanced hand of 22-24 points. North had no interest in a major-minor contract, but he had plenty in reserve to raise to three no trump.

Simple souls would have a 50 percent chance of making the contract. They would win the first trick and lead a red suit. If they opted for

hearts, all would be well. West's entry would be knocked out early, and the spade suit would wither on the vine.

Those who chose diamonds would not be so lucky. East would win and return a spade, forcing out declarer's remaining stopper. When West got in with the ace of hearts, there would be just enough spade tricks for the defense to register a one-trick set.

The winning play is simplicity itself. Most players are familiar with a holdup play when they have only one stopper in the enemy suit. Many do not realize it can be just as important not to win the first trick when the enemy suit is doubly stopped.

Suppose declarer were to win with a spade honor at trick one and win the continuation. Now it makes no difference which red ace he forces out first. If South selects the one where East holds the ace, that defender will not have a spade to return. If he does, the suit will break 4-3 and the most the enemy can collect would be two spade tricks and the two aces.

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'Rowdy fans won't be allowed'

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — Rowdy soccer fans will not be a problem at the World Cup in Italy next year, FIFA President Joao Havelange said Tuesday.

Havelange said he had toyed with the idea of setting aside \$5 million in prize money for the top teams in World Cup, but the prospect of violence made him give it up.

"Also, everyone will watch the games sitting down. It's the standing crowd that creates problems," he said.

Even the notoriously rowdy British fans don't worry FIFA, the sport's world ruling body. Havelange said. England heads group F in the 24-team tournament and will play in an isolated spot — the city of Cagliari on the island of Sardinia.

"It hurt me. I want it here too, but you have to decide based on

facts, not passion. The United States responded absolutely correctly to FIFA's list of demands," he said.

His goal, he said, is to hold the 2002 World Cup in Asia. "Japan, China and Saudi Arabia have monumental chances to host the cup. Japan has everything: stadiums, hotels, transportation. China does too," Havelange said.

Asked about charges that some Colombian teams laundered drug money through player transactions, Havelange said FIFA had never received proof to back up the claims. "If it worked, the best players in the world would be in Colombia. But I don't remember Colombia winning much of anything lately," he said.

Havelange said he had no

favours in the 1990 cup, which begins June 8 in Rome.

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CINEMA

PLAZA

COMING
TO
AMERICA

CINEMA

CONCORD

Shirleen, Farouq Al
Fashawi
in
THE GUIDE
(Arabic)

CINEMA

PHILADELPHIA

Lipstick
It isn't always an invitation to a kiss.
Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

CINEMA

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NIJOU

NIJOU

CINEMA

PLAZA

COMING
TO
AMERICA

Singh pledges to fight separatism

NEW DELHI (AP) — President Ramaswamy Venkataaraman, outlining the policies of India's new government, said Wednesday there would be no compromises in tackling secessionist rebellions by Sikh and Muslim militants.

In a speech prepared by Prime Minister V.P. Singh's government, Venkataaraman told a joint session of parliament that fresh efforts must be made to halt religious strife and corruption.

The president, whose post is largely ceremonial, also said India would retain friendly ties with both the Soviet Union and United States, seek to solve a border dispute with China and strengthen economic ties with Japan.

Singh, whose centrist National Front alliance took office after forging a coalition with Hindu right-wingers and secular Communists, listened attentively in the front row of the central hall of parliament.

Rajiv Gandhi, whose five-year tenure as prime minister ended in the November election debacle for his Congress Party, took notes.

Venkataaraman, noting that voters had given "a clear verdict in favour of change," said the new government would strive to meet the challenges ahead.

"The Punjab problem has defied solution so far," he said, referring to the Sikh separatist movement that has claimed more than 7,000 lives in the past six years and triggered the 1984

assassination of Gandhi's mother, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

"There will be no compromise with separatism and no yielding to extremists, but there is admittedly a compelling need for a national endeavour to resolve the problem," the white-haired president said.

He said Singh's government would broaden the discussions it already has initiated on finding a political solution for Punjab, India's most prosperous farming state.

The nationally televised, 15-minute speech set out a course of action for government, but gave few specifics. It was delivered in the same parliament hall where India's independence was proclaimed at midnight on Aug. 14, 1947.

Turning to Kashmir, where pro-Pakistan Muslims want to secede from India, Venkataaraman vowed, "There will be no compromise on the country's unity, sovereignty and integrity."

The two-week-old government of Singh, a Hindu, already has faced its first serious challenge from Kashmiri militants. On Dec. 8, militants abducted the daughter of Home Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, also a Muslim from Kashmir.

The young woman, a hospital intern, was released unharmed after six days when the government freed five Muslim extremists.

In a reference to communal riots that claimed more than 300

lives this fall in other states, the president said: "Violence has no place in the land of Mahatma Gandhi, the apostle of non-violence."

He was referring to Indian independence leader Mohandas K. Gandhi.

Venkataaraman said that under Singh, whose chief campaign pledge was to eradicate government corruption, legislation would be introduced to appoint an ombudsman, or watchdog, whose jurisdiction would include the prime minister.

Rajiv Gandhi's government was founded by accusations of corruption, epitomised by allegations that the Swedish arms manufacturer AB Bofors paid up to \$50 million in kickbacks to clinch a \$1.4-billion contract with India.

"Over the past few years, there has been a growing erosion of norms and values in public life," Venkataaraman said. "The law will take its own course in respect of matters of corruption in high places."

He also said autonomy would be granted to state-run television and radio, which under Rajiv Gandhi devoted wide coverage to the governing congress party and little time to the opposition.

India will continue its policy of non-alignment while remaining friendly with both East and West, and work on "strengthening ties with our neighbours in South Asia," Venkataaraman said.



Young Czechs showing the V-sign from the tram with Vaclav Havel's picture and posters stuck on the window.

Kohl dismisses 'fourth reich' fears

DRESDEN (Agencies) — West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl Wednesday dismissed as "absurd" fears that reunification with East Germany would create an evil empire.

Kohl, during a news conference closing a triumphant two-day visit, also said he expects a treaty expanding bilateral ties to be completed before East Germany's first free elections next Friday.

At Tuesday's summit meeting, Kohl and Communist Premier Hans Modrow agreed that East Germany would open the wall at the historic Brandenburg Gate before Christmas.

The two sides also signed several agreements and pledged to negotiate the treaty to bring them even closer together, especially by expanding economic links.

President Francois Mitterrand of France, who is closely following German developments, was expected to arrive later Wednesday in East Berlin. He was to meet Modrow and other top East German officials during a three-day visit.

Spy swap

"It's the most natural thing that Germans want to live together," Kohl said. "But we all know that it cannot come immediately."

Earlier, he met with two Roman Catholic bishops and opposition representatives as well as Dresden Mayor Wolfgang Berghofer, a popular Communist reformer.

An East German Lutheran church leader told a West German radio station that the Com-

munist country could slip into anarchy, but cited positive signs in Kohl's visit to Dresden.

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The two German states move closer together.

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Noriega
— 'MAN'
thumping
his nose
at U.S.

PANAMA CITY (AP) — General Manuel Antonio Noriega has been a shrewd survivor who thumped his nose at what he called "the Colossus of the North."

He eliminated political opposition, nullified the May 7 elections when they were going against him and repeatedly defied the United States, which indicted him on drug trafficking charges in February 1988.

Noriega, who comes from El Chorrillo, the Panama City district where Panama Defence Forces (PDF) headquarters is located, has survived and created a mystique that won him the nickname "the Man," the English world's initials spell.

Noriega wrapped himself in nationalism, saying it was part of the historic mission of his generation to take control of the Panama Canal. Under an accord with the United States, Panama is to take over the canal by the year 2000.

Noriega claimed his enemies were plotting to abrogate the canal pact.

On Oct. 3, elements of the 15,000-man PDF he commanded rebelled and claimed they had deposed him, but troops loyal to him suppressed the rebellion and he personally accepted the rebels' surrender.

During his last crisis in May after the opposition swamped his candidate in the annulled presidential elections, Noriega was standing alone before the tomb of his patron, General Omar Torrijos.

The epitaph on the tomb is: "I don't want to enter heaven. I just want to enter the canal zone."

Torrijos, who seized power in a 1968, signed the 1977 accord with former President Carter to turn over the canal. Torrijos died in a plane crash in 1981, and Noriega became commander of the PDF in 1983, giving him de facto control of the government.

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British MPs okay return of boat people

COLUMN

Naked man shot in Bonn

LONDON (AP) — Legislators have endorsed Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's controversial policy of forcibly repatriating Vietnamese from Hong Kong and the government indicated the deportations of boat people will resume.

The 309-219 vote in the House of Commons Tuesday came after an acrimonious three-hour debate in which opposition legislators accused the Conservative Party government of bringing shame and international disgrace on Britain.

London suspended forced repatriations to allow for the parliamentary debate after the first deportations — 51 Vietnamese bundled on to an aircraft in the early hours of Dec. 12 — provoked an international outcry.

"It was a decision that gave pleasure to none and, I acknowledge, has caused anxiety to many," Foreign Office Minister Francis Maude told the Commons Tuesday night.

But he said the burden of 57,000 boat people now in Hong Kong holding camps and the prospect of thousands more arriving when the sailing season begins in the spring had become intolerable.

All but 13,000 have been classified as economic migrants seeking a better way of life, not political refugees with a right to asylum.

"For those of us who do have those responsibilities, they cannot be dodged and we won't shirk them," Maude said, indicating forced repatriations will resume. He gave no date.

"Of course the United States has been critical. There are historical reasons for this. But... they have had no realistic alternative to propose," Maude added.

Meanwhile, the government faced another storm with an announcement due Wednesday on the number of Hong Kong Chinese who will be given residence rights in Britain after China takes over the colony in 1997.

Leaks from government officials put the total at about 225,000 of the 3.25 million Hong Kong Chinese who now have British passports but no residence rights.

The move is intended to cover about 50,000 key government employees and entrepreneurs and their families needed to maintain the British administration and the territory's capitalist system.

Havel to become president

PRAGUE (R) — Playwright Vaclav Havel seems certain to become Czechoslovakia's president next week.

Parliament decided to choose a new head of state before the end of the year and its steering committee called a session for Dec. 29 when the election will take place.

The committee said the meeting would be held not in the parliament building but in the Vladislav Hall of Prague Castle, seat of Czechoslovakia's head of state, the official news agency CTK said.

"I followed today's broadcast from the federal assembly and it seems every other deputy was suggesting me as president," Havel told a news conference.

"Some of these people are very unlikely to me."

Even hardline Communists, for whom Havel was a despised nobody little more than a month ago, admitted their constituents were so overwhelmingly in favour of Havel that they would vote for him.

Havel's election became certain after Prime Minister Marian Calfa and other leading communists endorsed his candidacy during parliament's session Tuesday.

"It does seem that I am the

likely person to be elected," said Havel, central figure of the opposition which in the past month has forced through democratic reforms and ended the Communist Party's monopoly on power.

The parliament accepted, also unanimously, a motion to extend the time limit for choosing a successor to President Gustav Husak, who resigned nine days ago, from 14 to 40 days.

But, deciding that the assembly would elect a president rather than put the matter to a referendum, deputies also stressed that the election should take place before the end of the year.

Parliament will choose the president publicly, not by secret ballot, and the new head of state's term of office will end after free parliamentary elections.

Havel has repeatedly said he wants to lead Czechoslovakia only until its first free elections for more than 40 years — and these should take place by the middle of 1990.

Charles lambasts 'banal' use of English language

LONDON (AP) — Prince Charles lamented Tuesday the "calamitous decline" in literacy in Britain, and said use of the English language was degenerating into a "dismal wasteland of banality, cliché and casual obscenity."

In June, the heir to the British throne complained English was taught "so bloody badly" that he had to correct all letters written by his staff.

Tuesday's criticism was couched more elegantly but was equally biting in singling out the teaching profession for discarding the idea that English is a precious legacy to be nurtured with care.

"We have seen the abandonment of learning the rules of grammar and the parts of speech as boring and irrelevant," he said.

The prince said it was deplorable that schools have stopped insisting students learn poetry by heart.

Good Samaritan

robbed on beach

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — A former army medic who tied in vain to rescue a drowning man returned to shore with the body and found that his wallet had been emptied of cash.

Ronald Morgan, 28, said he heard a commotion in Johannesburg's Rhodes Park Monday afternoon and saw more than a dozen people watching passively as a man was drowning in the middle of a lake.

"It took me five minutes to get him to shore," Morgan told the Star newspaper. "He was already blue — that's how long people stood and watched. The worst thing of all was when I looked in my wallet, which I left behind when I went in, and 100 rand (\$39) was missing."

A police spokesman, Capt. Eugene Opperman, Tuesday praised Morgan's rescue attempt and said the drowned man, who may have committed suicide, had not been identified.

Buchwald in court

LOS ANGELES (R) — Humorous Art Buchwald, who claims Paramount Studios used his ideas for the Eddie Murphy hit film "Coming to America," told a court his property was stolen and "raped."

He said at first he didn't know what to do about it because "it is very hard for a so-called humorist to be taken seriously."

Buchwald, a Washington columnist, has sued Paramount Pictures Corporation for \$5 million, claiming the film, in which Murphy played an African prince who went to the United States and found a wife, was based on a story he wrote.

Global weather

(major world cities)

	MON	TUE	WED
AMSTERDAM	03 37 10	03 50 Rain	03 53 Cloudy
ATHENS	00 37 19	00 57 20	00 57 20
Bahrain	14 57 19	14 58 20	14 58 20
BANGKOK	20 59 31	20 59 31	20 59 31
BUENOS AIRES	17 23 27	17 23 27	17 23 27
CARDO	10 20 24	10 20 24	10 20 24
CHICAGO	05 18 21	05 18 21	05 18 21
COPENHAGEN	01 34 18	01 34 18	01 34 18
FRANKFURT	05 43 11	05 43 11	05 43 11
GENEVA	07 45 18	07 45 18	07 45 18
HONG KONG	17 53 20	17 53 20</	